GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4519
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF AVTAR SATELLITE
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian scientists have started research work on a spacecraft named `Avtar` which would launch satellites at low cost and would also ferry tourists to space;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost to be incurred on manufacturing this spacecraft; and

(d) the time by which this spacecraft is likely to be manufactured?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a) & (b): Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) have carried out conceptual design of a reusable air-breathing vehicle called `Hyperplane`. This space plane can take off from conventional run-way and accelerate from Mach 4 to Mach 8 with its scramjet engines. The demonstrator version of Hyperplane is named as `Avtar`, which is still in conceptual stage.

(c) & (d): It is too premature to estimate the cost and time for its manufacture as it is still in conceptual stage.